

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007. Claims 1-12 remain in this application. Claim 1 is in independent form. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification (Title)

In the Office Action, the Specification was objected to for a non-descriptive title. The title has been replaced with a new title as per the Examiner's recommendation. It is believed the new title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

In addition, in order to put the claims in better form, Claims 2-10 have been amended by changing "characterized in that" to "wherein". Claims 2-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,926,241 – Pollard.

Regarding original claim 1, the office action states Pollard teaches in figures 1 and 2 and the corresponding text, a high pressure discharge lamp comprising: a discharge vessel (1) enclosing a discharge space (no number) which contains an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel (1) having a first (2) and a second (2) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion (no number) provided with a pair of electrodes (3) arranged in the discharge space (no number), each electrode being tubular over its entire length.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to better define Applicant's invention over Pollard. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed by Pollard.

Additionally, Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent Claim 2 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 2. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 2, Claims 3 and 4 are believed to be allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Claims 3 and 4 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended reads:

1. A high-pressure discharge lamp comprising: a discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (11) which contains an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel (10) having a first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion provided with a pair of electrodes (6, 7) arranged in the discharge space (13), each electrode (6, 7) being tubular over its entire length, at least one of the electrodes (6, 7) being directly coupled at an end not arranged in the discharge space, to a rod (15) which is coupled at a distal end to a current-supply conductor (5), a melting-ceramic joint (21) being provided

between the current-supply conductor (5), the rod (15) and a wall of the
respective first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portions,
thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space.

The amendment to Claim 1 is described with reference to Figures 1A and 1B of the invention, in which Figure 1B schematically shows a cross-sectional view of a detail of the high-pressure discharge lamp, as shown in Figure 1A, showing only the second neck-shaped portion.

Claim 1 as amended, recites in part, that a current-supply conductor (4, 5), preferably made of niobium, extends to a tubular electrode (6, 7), arranged in the discharge space (11). In between the current-supply conductor (4, 5) and the tubular electrodes (6, 7), a rod (15) is provided. The rod is preferably made of molybdenum or cermet. The neck-shaped portion (2, 3) closely surrounds the tubular electrode (4, 5) and the Mo rod 15 with clearance (see Figure 1B). A melting-ceramic joint 21 is provided between the current-supply conductor 5, the Mo rod 15, and the wall of the neck-shaped portion 3, thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space 11 in the discharge vessel 10.

Pollard does not teach or disclose the arrangement described immediately above. Pollard only teaches – a Tungsten rod 4, 45 mils in diameter by 0.380 inches long, inserted into the back of electrode 3 a distance of 0.125 inches and sintered in place at 1850.degree.C in vacuum for 1 hour.

Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claim 1, as amended, recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollard in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,558,964 to White.

Claims 3-5 and 8 depend from Claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 3-5 and 8 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 3-5 and 8 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

New Claims

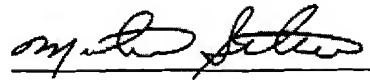
Claims 11-12 have been added to recite that the rod (15) of Claim 1 is preferably made from molybdenum and that the current-supply conductor (5) is preferably made from niobium.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1- 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Frank Keegan, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9669.

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATION SHEET
10/549,237
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. [M2-214] DE030085

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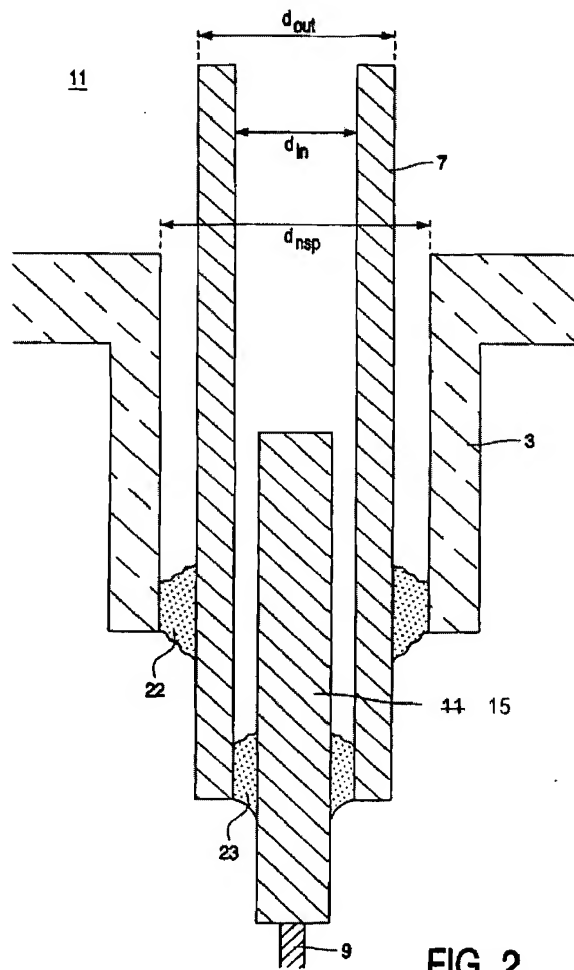


FIG. 2